

Residential Automobile Repair and Maintenance

Many people prefer to repair and maintain their vehicles at home. Those that do need to ensure that the work they engage in does not contribute to pollution problems. Automobile maintenance and repair activities can introduce oil, grease, and antifreeze, hydraulic and brake fluids, and heavy metals to our local water bodies and groundwater.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The following best management practices (BMPs) or equivalent measures, methods, or practices are required if you engage in automobile repair and maintenance at your home.

1

Collect all used oil, antifreeze, or other vehicle fluids in containers with tight fitting lids. Do not mix these fluids in the same container as this may limit your ability to recycle the fluids at your local auto parts store.

2

Never dispose of used oil, antifreeze, or other fluids into a storm drain, into a ditch, or onto the ground. These fluids should either be recycled at an auto parts store or service station. These fluids can also be disposed of at a household hazardous waste collection site. You can call the household hazardous waste line at 206-296-4692 for information and disposal options and locations.

3

Never steam clean the engine or undercarriage of your vehicle at home. For this type of cleaning, take the vehicle to a commercial car wash facility.

4

Use drip pans, tarps, or even cardboard and newspaper under the vehicle to capture leaks or spills that may occur during maintenance and repair activities.

5

Clean up spills with rags or absorbent material, such as sand, dirt, or cat litter. Do not wash down or hose down these spills to the curbs, roadway, or storm drains. Sweep up absorbents and dispose of them in

your garbage can.



Store automotive parts, such as batteries, engines, transmissions, and other parts that may have oily or greasy residue on them, under cover and off the ground to minimize rainwater contact. Rainwater can wash pollutants off these parts and send pollutants to storm drainage systems and groundwater. Tarps are a cheap and easy solution to covering parts.

OTHER OPTIONS AND TIPS



Take your vehicle to a commercial car repair facility where fluids are disposed of, recycled and handled correctly to avoid pollutants being introduced to our local water bodies

For more information or assistance in implementing these best management practices, contact the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Stormwater Services Section at 206-296-1900.